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A look at the iconic school through the years

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The Post and Courier



MATTHEW CRUM/STAFF

We are proud to bring you this special publication celebrating the College of Charleston's 250th anniversary.

Founded in 1803, The Post and Courier has continuously served our readers for more than two centuries. Along the way, as South Carolina's largest media company, we've adapted many times to the changing needs of our readers. And, no doubt, we will continue to change and grow. But one thing that has never changed — and will never change — is our commitment to providing quality, transparent, integrity-based journalism to the communities we serve.

The College of Charleston, too, is no stranger to change and service to its community. In fact, that is one of the hallmarks of being a centuries-old liberal arts university. You are always adapting to the evolving needs of students and the region.

The College of Charleston, founded in 1770, is the oldest university in the state of South Carolina and is the 13th oldest in the country. So, like The Post and Courier, it has seen its fair

share of history. In its 251 years of existence, the College of Charleston has found itself both on the right side and the wrong side of history — a reflection of our city as a slave capital in early America and as a bastion of Jim Crow.

Today, the College of Charleston and The Post and Courier are both doing extraordinary work to reconcile our past with our present and our future. In this special piece, The Post and Courier, as journalists, are using this moment to reflect on the College of Charleston's complicated past, while also outlining the College's exciting present and future.

Of course, all of this is just a drop in the bucket for understanding and appreciating this great institution. The College of Charleston is a point of pride not only for our beloved city and the Lowcountry region, but for our entire country. For, the story of the College of Charleston is very much the story of the United States of America. It is a story of contrasts, a story of resilience and a story of hope. And through the College of Charleston's example, we have much to learn and we have much to look forward to.

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COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON: HISTORY



FILE/GRACE BEAHM ALFORD/STAFF

Randolph Hall on the College of Charleston campus. The college celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2020. It was founded in 1770 and is the oldest college or university south of Virginia.

Learning from the past

One of the oldest universities in the nation, College of Charleston officials look to the school's 250-year history before planning its future

BY JENNA SCHIFERL
jschiferl@postandcourier.com

The College of Charleston, founded in 1770, is the oldest institution for higher education south of Virginia.

Among the college's founders and early trustees were framers of the Constitution and

signers of the Declaration of Independence. Seven others would go on to become South Carolina governors, while more still would serve as federal and state lawmakers, diplomats and judges, as well as Charleston mayors and councilmen.

Over time, the College of Charleston has evolved from a small, exclusive school to one

of the largest public universities in the state, serving more than 10,000 students.

The college has come a long way since its founding, which predates that of the United States.

And with it, the city has grown, too.

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Throughout the past 2½ centuries, the school has played a crucial role in the rapid development of Charleston. In the same way, the city has had a significant impact on some of the structural and cultural changes at the college.

“The institution has been here for 250 years, and I’m sure it will have no trouble in excelling for another 250 years,” college President Andrew Hsu said in an interview reflecting on the school’s history and future.

Between the unveiling of a new, 10-year strategic plan and the numerous celebrations planned for its semiquincentennial, 2020 was already going to be a historic year.

But a global pandemic and national civil unrest resulted in unprecedented challenges for students and administrators alike.

“I think a tumultuous year would be an understatement,” Hsu said.

Students spent more than half of the college’s

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FILE/GRACE BEAHM ALFORD/STAFF

College of Charleston students Keyasia Pride and Grayson Harris were selected to unveil a historical marker on George Street with President Andrew Hsu during C of C Day, the kickoff of the school’s 250th anniversary celebrations, on Jan. 30, 2020.

An advertisement for Charleston 350th anniversary merchandise. It features three images: a hand holding a white tumbler with 'CHS' and '350' printed on it; a man wearing a blue baseball cap with 'CHS' and '350' on it; and a woman holding a tan tote bag with a circular logo that says 'CHARLESTON 350 SOUTH CAROLINA'. The logo also includes the years '1670' and '2020' and a small map of South Carolina. Below the images is the text 'UNIQUE CHARLESTON ITEMS', 'Shop our line of official Charleston 350th commemorative merchandise.', and 'Go to store.charleston350.com'. A stylized 'PC' logo is also present.

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anniversary year learning from behind a computer screen as virus activity surged.

After the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor in the spring, some students marched in the streets as police deployed tear gas canisters just a few hundred feet away from some of the college's historic buildings.

Still, Hsu said he believes future historians will view this time as one of resilience.

"I think that's probably the most important word for this particular year," Hsu said. "We really persevered through a very difficult academic year. And, as a campus, we adapted, we innovated, we managed and mitigated."

But in order to truly plan for the college's future, college officials first needed to study its past.

University founded for wealthy young men

It was January 1770 when Lt. Gov. William Bull recommended to the colony's General Assembly the establishment of a college in Charleston so that wealthy young men in the area could pursue higher education without traveling abroad.

Political disagreements and the American Revolution ultimately delayed the school's chartering until 1785, and the first classes at the college weren't held at the school until 1790.

Still, school officials have long considered 1770 its founding year.

Once opened, the university was designed to be an elite institution meant to educate the sons of wealthy plantation owners or merchants. It was even presented as an alternative to celebrated institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard.

"The people who founded the



FILE/GAVIN MCINTYRE/STAFF

Derek Smith, a senior at the College of Charleston, rides his bike past The Cistern in August. Through its 250 years, the school has played a crucial role in the rapid development of Charleston.

college founded it because they wanted to keep their sons in Charleston rather than sending them to England or to the north," said Nan Morrison, author of "A History of the College of Charleston, 1936–2008."

In January 1790, the first classes were held on the ground floor of the home of the Rev. Robert Smith, who served as the college's first president until 1797. The Glebe Street building now functions as the residence for college presidents.

In 1794, a group of six students completed their studies, marking the college's first graduating class.

In the early 19th century, additional classrooms were fashioned out of old Revolutionary War military barracks on what is now the western side of Cistern Yard.

It wasn't until the 1820s that the old barracks were demolished

and Randolph Hall was erected nearby.

Enslaved laborers helped build college

This site, which would become the college's most iconic landmark, was built in part on the backs of enslaved laborers.

"To construct Randolph Hall, we are 100 percent sure that slave labor was used," said Adam Domby, an assistant professor of history at the College of Charleston and author of "The False Cause: Fraud, Fabrication, and White Supremacy in Confederate Memory."

But, Domby said, the college and its early leaders profited off of enslaved labor in more ways than just one.

Several early college presidents listed enslaved people in their estates at the time of their death, Domby said. Historical records

have shown that several other college leaders were involved in the buying and selling of enslaved people.

The College of Charleston's ninth president, Nathaniel Russell Middleton, leased enslaved people to the Confederacy for the purpose of creating gunpowder.

In return for this labor, Middleton himself was compensated.

"The ties to slavery on this college campus are everywhere," Domby said.

Even the reason for the college's founding is linked to slavery.

Members of the state's wealthy elite feared what might happen to their sons if they were to become educated at Northern institutions who taught students "abolitionist ideas."

"We don't exist as a college with-

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out the institution of slavery,” Domby said.

College avoided desegregation for years

Despite the crucial role slavery played in the college’s creation, Black students have been excluded from the university for most of its 250-year history.

After its founding, the school remained a small institution primarily for the elite until 1837 when it became the first municipal college in the United States.

It stayed a municipal college until 1949. Under the leadership of President George Grice, the college, a small school with an enrollment of about 500 mostly local students, became a private institution to avoid desegregation.

The school’s privatization came during a pivotal point in American history, said Bernard Powers, a professor emeritus at the College of Charleston and director of the college’s Center for the Study of Slavery.

This was the early days of the civil rights movement, Powers said, which was energized by World War II and its aftermath.

“People were increasingly, in a very aggressive way, going about the process of mounting legal suits and legal challenges in order to obtain their rights,” Powers said.

The push toward privatization began after a group of black graduates from the Avery Institute, led by John Wrighten, applied to attend the College of Charleston in 1944.

University officials essentially rejected their applications, and the school became private in 1949.

It stayed that way until July 1966, when the board voted to comply with the Civil Rights Act and allow Black students to enroll, Morrison said.

The school was incorporated into the S.C. State College System in 1970.

Enrollment booms

At that point, enrollment still hovered around 500. But the college’s shift to becoming a state-sponsored school served as a catalyst for growth.

Under the leadership of the university’s 16th president, Ted Stern, the size of the college’s student body ballooned.

Enrollment was up to 1,500 by 1972, and by 1979 it was nearing 5,000.

During Stern’s tenure, the number of physical campus buildings rapidly expanded, too, from 10 to more than 100. The renovations included the first classroom building constructed since the 19th century, Morrison said.

“That is when the expansion of the college really takes over. And it continues that way today,” Morrison said.

College among SC’s largest today

With an enrollment exceeding 10,000 students today, the College of Charleston operates as one of the largest public universities in the state.

It offers more than 60 undergraduate majors for students to choose from and features 22 different graduate programs

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Congratulations to
the College of Charleston
on its

250th ANNIVERSARY

It has been an honor to collaborate with faculty, staff, students and professors at the College of Charleston for so many years. We cherish the relationships we have developed and the considerable progress that has been made. Thank you for the opportunity to inspire and to be inspired. Above all, thank you for continuing to carry on the 250-year tradition of excellence, commitment and service in the Charleston community.

ANITA ZUCKER,
the Zucker Family and



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PAST, from Page 9

ranging from mathematical sciences to historic preservation.

“We offer our students a very well-rounded liberal arts education,” Hsu said.

In many ways, this background in liberal arts is what helped the college successfully navigate the complexities associated with re-opening campus amid the global pandemic.

“The hallmark of a liberal arts education is that we’re adaptable, we are innovative and we are problem solvers,” he said.

The college officially unveiled its 10-year strategic plan in May 2020, marking a major milestone for Hsu and his administration.

At its core, the strategic plan focuses on a vision that Hsu has imagined since his first day on the job — elevating the college into a

new stage of growth and recognition.

“The college wants to be a national university known for its innovation and innovative ways to higher education and be a partner to help the region develop its workforce and its economy, culture and health,” Hsu said. “It’s taking the college to the next level.”

The university already has widespread recognition across the East Coast, but Hsu hopes to elevate the school’s success to a national, even international, platform.

Hsu had made it clear that any of the college’s future advancement won’t come at the expense of its long-held customs.

“It’s tradition and transformation,” he said of the 10-year plan.

Looking ahead

After reflecting on the college’s

past 2½ centuries, the president has also spent time thinking of what the future might hold.

Fifty years from now, Hsu said, he is confident that the university will have achieved its goal of becoming one of the premier education institutions in the country. In fact, he added, he doesn’t doubt the university will be able to achieve this in just 10 years.

It’s hard to say how else the college might change over the course of the next 250 years.

“As technology develops, the economy develops, the world develops, I think there are going to be a lot of new academic programs that we can’t even imagine,” he said.

After all, it wasn’t that long ago when nobody knew what it would mean to have a degree in computer science. Today, this field of study is one of most popular

majors at any university.

Classroom technology will likely look different in the future, too, Hsu said.

In a year filled with Zoom meetings and virtual school, some have theorized that face-to-face instruction will one day be a thing of the past.

Hsu disagrees.

Regardless of what happens moving forward, he said, this year’s events proved that in-person instruction at the college is here to stay.

Hsu had one major piece of advice for future College of Charleston presidents who might come after him: “Together we can achieve whatever we set our eyes on,” he said. “It takes a village to achieve anything, but if you have the entire village with you then you can achieve anything.”

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COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON: SPORTS

From C of C to the NBA

Anthony Johnson the best all-around player to wear a Cougars uniform

BY ANDREW MILLER
apmiller@postandcourier.com

The call came early, much too early on a Saturday morning, especially after a long Friday night of watching and writing about high school basketball.

The voice on the other end, always upbeat and cheerful no matter the time of day, asked, “Hello, Andrew, how are you today?” in that distinct New York City accent.

I wiped the sleep from my eyes

and answered groggily, “Great, coach Kresse, what’s up?”

In an instant I knew why he had called. The night before, I’d gone to cover a high school basketball game between Stall and Burke high schools. Charleston’s top two high school basketball players — Burke’s Melvin Watson and Stall’s Anthony Johnson — had been the featured attraction and coach John Kresse was hoping for a quick scouting report.

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Former Stall High School star Anthony Johnson played 13 seasons in the NBA.

FILE/AP

Cheers
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JOHNSON, from Page 11

I gave him my opinion as succinctly as possible, but he wanted to dig a little deeper about Johnson, whose brother Steven had played for Kresse at College of Charleston a few years earlier.

I told him A.J., who was a three-sport star for Stall High School, was the odds-on favorite to be The Post and Courier's high school athlete of the year, but Watson was the better basketball prospect.

There was a long pause on the other end of the phone.

Finally, he responded, "Oh, Andrew, I think you are mistaken. I think A.J. is going to be a very good player in college," Kresse said.

And that's why John Kresse is a Hall of Fame coach and I, well, have written about Hall of Fame coaches and future NBA players among many subjects.

After redshirting his freshman season at the college, Anthony Johnson would go on to become the most complete, best all-around player to ever put on a College of Charleston uniform. Johnson had the unique ability to control a game at both ends of the floor without scoring many points. He still holds the school's career mark for assists, at 520.

More importantly, the Cougars won when Johnson was in the lineup. The Cougars were 101-17 during Johnson's tenure with the team, with four conference championships, two NIT and two NCAA Tournament appearances. The Cougars recorded their only NCAA Tournament victory — a 75-66 upset over Maryland in the opening round of the 1997 NCAA Tournament — with Johnson as a starter.

"A.J. was like having a second coach on the floor," Kresse said.

Johnson became the school's first NBA Draft pick when he was selected 40th overall by the Sacramento Kings in 1997. He played 13 seasons in the NBA, a career that spanned from Michael Jordan to LeBron James.

His professional career also included time with the Atlanta Hawks, Orlando Magic, Cleveland Cavaliers and New Jersey Nets. He played in three NBA Finals as a member of the Nets in 2002 and 2003 and the Magic in 2009. In all, Johnson played in 100 career playoff games.

Reach **Andrew Miller** at 843-937-5599. Follow him on Twitter @APMILLER_PandC.



FILE/AP

Former College of Charleston star Anthony Johnson (left) faced off against Kobe Bryant twice in the NBA Finals. Here, Johnson tries to stop Bryant in a 2006 game.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON: 250 YEARS



Students walk past Porter's Lodge on the College of Charleston campus. In 1794, a group of six students completed their studies, marking the college's first graduating class.

FILE/GRACE BEAHM ALFORD/STAFF

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COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON: 250 YEARS



The College of Charleston 16-inch telescope at the College's observatory is the addition that physics professor Dr. William Kubinec (right) and junior Carl Rourk hoped for on April 20, 1988.

FILE/STAFF

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON: 250 YEARS



PHOTOGRAPHS FILE/STAFF

TOP
Sadie Hawkins
day celebration
at the College of
Charleston on
Nov. 11, 1961.

RIGHT
C of C Center
Stage actors
Alanna Johnson
and Orlando Jones
play the characters
Pattie Wells and
Cephus Miles in
"Home" on
Feb. 17, 1987.



COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON: LEGACY



FILE/GRACE BEAHM ALFORD/STAFF

A historical marker for the case Briggs v. Elliott is posted outside the J. Waties Waring Federal Complex on Meeting Street.

TOP 15 GRADS

Most notable alumni: Some feed the mind, others the body, soul and spirit

The Post and Courier

Before there was Clemson University or the University of South Carolina, before the word “united” was placed before the various Colonies, or states, of America, College of Charleston was preparing to educate young Charlestonians.

The college was founded in 1770, though its first class didn’t begin for nearly two decades. But once young

men and later women matriculated the school, they certainly left their marks in their respective fields.

The College of Charleston has a top-15 list of its most famous or most successful grads. One designed the Washington Monument, one breached racial boundaries, another shattered the glass ceiling for women trying to enter the vaulted institution. Still others saved

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— *Chrisandrea Nguyen Sucher, Class of 2011*

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FILE

Judge J. Waties Waring and Elizabeth Waring at an NAACP banquet.

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lives in medicine and the sciences, smashed home runs in the major leagues, slam-dunked success in the NBA and found ways to feed the poor.

Here's a look at these elite 15 grads from College of Charleston:

**Robert Mills,
Class of 1800 (1781-1855)**

Mills graduated from the college when he was just 19 and followed his mentor, architect James Hoban, who was commissioned to design and construct the White House.

Mills went on to create blueprints for a prison in New Jersey and designed the nation's first Washington Monument, this one in Baltimore. But he also designed many federal buildings in D.C., including the Department

of Treasury building, the U.S. Patent Office and the General Post Office.

The pinnacle of his efforts, though, is best seen in the tall spire you can see from anywhere in the U.S. capital — his design for the Washington Monument.

**John C. Frémont,
Class of 1836 (1813-1880)**

Frémont helped the nation move West. In the 1830s and 1840s, he surveyed and mapped out westerly routes because the West was a large unknown. This earned him the moniker as the "Great Pathfinder" for his contributions to exploration of the West.

The college said he was instrumental in the U.S. conquest and development of California. He served there as military governor and one of the state's first U.S. senators. Land he claimed in the Sierra Nevada foothills had rich

gold ore veins, making him a multimillionaire.

In 1856, Frémont became the first Republican presidential candidate, before serving as a major general for the Union during the Civil War. In 1861, he issued a proclamation freeing slaves, which was later overturned by President Abraham Lincoln.

Later in life, Frémont served as the fifth governor of Arizona.

**J. Waties Waring,
Class of 1900 (1880-1968)**

Waring worked his way up the legal system and became a federal district judge who helped advance efforts to desegregate South Carolina.

One decision equalized salaries of Black and White teachers and another desegregated the state's law school.

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GRADS, from Page 18

In 1951, Waring registered a vehement dissent to *Briggs v. Elliott*, which sustained the so-called “separate but equal” standard established in the late 1800s. He ruled that segregation was “per se inequality,” something that formed the legal foundation for the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board of Education* decision (1954).

His positions angered segregationists and prompted him to leave South Carolina. He moved to New York City and became active in civil-rights efforts.

Pierrine St. Claire Smith Byrd, Class of 1922 (1899-1994)

Byrd was the College of Charleston’s first female graduate. She demonstrated that women could not only excel at the college but also play an integral role on campus.

She graduated top of her 1922 class and received the prestigious Alumni Medal. Byrd also was president of the Co-Ed Club, captain of the women’s basketball team and editor-in-chief of the yearbook, *The Comet*.

After a lifetime of philanthropy and other activities as a longtime resident of Greenwood, including participating as an accredited judge for the American Rose Society, she passed away in 1994 at age 95. She is buried in Greenwood County.

Dr. Hilla Sheriff, Class of 1924 (1902-1988)

Sheriff graduated in just two years and pursued her medical degree from the Medical College of South Carolina, now MUSC.

She was considered the “Grand Dame of S.C. Public Health” and

opened a pediatrics practice in Spartanburg in 1929. She went on to establish the nation’s first family-planning clinic associated with a county health department.

Sheriff was awarded the Rockefeller Foundation fellowship, and in 1937 she, like Byrd, broke another glass ceiling and became the first American woman to earn a master of public health degree from Harvard University.

Mary Stewart Allan, Class of 1928 (1908-1975)

Allan graduated into a job as a “Broad Street secretary” in a law office. There, she studied law every chance she could.

In 1933, she took and passed the state Bar examination to become the first woman admitted to the South Carolina Bar.

She completed a master’s degree in social work at the University of Chicago in the late 1930s and used her professional education as a volunteer social worker throughout the Great Depression.

In 1949, she organized Charleston’s first Legal Aid Society.

Eddie Ganaway, Class of 1971 (1944-2013)

It took decades before another barrier was broken at the college. Ganaway became the first Black student to graduate in 1971, following his 1968 admission.

After earning a degree in history, he went on to earn a master’s degree in history from Duke University and went on to teach at Illinois State University and South Carolina State University.

He is remembered for his leadership, commitment to enhancing diversity and efforts to strengthen the Charleston community.

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FILE/STAFF

Arlinda Locklear, who graduated from the College of Charleston in 1973, urged students to dedicate their lives to public service. Locklear, a Lumbee Indian from North Carolina, is a lawyer who has served Native American affairs for 30 years and is the first female Native American to argue a case before the Supreme Court.



Congratulations
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GRADS, from Page 19

In 2007, the college awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Both the Eddie Ganaway Diversity Education and Resource Center and the Eddie Ganaway Distinguished Alumni Award are named in his honor.

**Arlinda Locklear,
Class of 1973 (1951–present)**

Locklear was the first Native American woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. But before she could do that, she earned her bachelor's degree from the college in 1973 and then her J.D. from Duke University.

She went to work with the Native American Rights Fund, the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit law firm dedicated to defending the rights of American Indian tribes, organizations and individuals.

As an expert in Native American law and tribal recognition litigation, Locklear twice served as lead counsel in these Supreme Court cases, which ruled in favor of tribal parties seeking justice.

**Dr. John Tisdale,
Class of 1986 (1964–present)**

Tisdale earned his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and became a physician scientist who focused his research on finding a cure for sickle cell disease through transplanting allogeneic stem cells, known as an allogeneic bone marrow transplant.

He completed a study that demonstrated that bone marrow cells could be transplanted from hyperlipidemia, or HLD, matched sibling donors without completely destroying the patient's immune system.

Tisdale is now working to extend the concept with alternative strategies to include donors who are not perfectly matched.

He and his team at the National Institutes of Health have set a goal to find a gene therapy strategy for sickle cell disease.

They are meeting great success in their clinical trial to cure the disease and their technique may provide a gateway to cure thousands of other genetic disease.



PROVIDED

Jess Weixler (from left), Matt Czuchry and Julianna Margulies in a scene from the CBS series "The Good Wife." Czuchry attended the College of Charleston on a tennis scholarship.

**Anthony Johnson,
Class of 1997 (1974–present)**

Johnson became the college's first NBA draft pick in 1997, when he was selected 40th overall by the Sacramento Kings.

His No. 24 jersey is honored in the rafters of TD Arena, and he still remains the school's all-time career assists leader with 520.

During Johnson's four-year career, the Cougars compiled an 101-17 overall record, including four TAAC championships, two NIT and two NCAA Tournament appearances, including the program's first-round victory over Maryland in the NCAA Southeast Regional.

As a senior in 1996-97, he garnered Honorable Mention All-American honors by The Associated Press, earned a spot on the All-TAAC First Team and was named TAAC Player of the Year, averaging 13.9 points, 3.5 rebounds and 7.2 assists per game. This placed him No. 6 nationally.

As a team, the Cougars finished the 1996-97 season 29-3 and ranked 16 in the final Associated Press Top 25 Poll and No. 21 in the USA TODAY/Coaches Top 25 Poll.

Johnson spent 13 years in the NBA with the Kings, Atlanta Hawks, Orlando Magic, Cleveland Cavaliers and New Jersey Nets. He played in three NBA Finals as a member of the Nets in 2002 and 2003 and the Magic in 2009.

**Matt Czuchry,
Class of 1999 (1977–present)**

Czuchry attended the college on a tennis scholarship and earned dual degrees in political science and history. He was awarded the Bishop Robert Smith Award — the highest honor given a student at spring commencement in recognition of high levels of leadership and academic excellence. His biography shows he won the Mr. College of Charleston pageant in 1998.

Soon after graduating, he began his acting career and quickly made a name for himself in Hollywood starring in television shows such as "Gilmore Girls" and "The Good Wife." Czuchry now stars in the Fox Network medical drama "The Resident."

He has received three Screen Actors Guild Award nominations for his work.

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GRADS, from Page 20

Tabetha Boyajin, Class of 2003 (1980-present)

Boyajin earned a degree in physics with a concentration in astronomy. She later earned a master's degree in physics and Ph.D. from Georgia State University and is an astrophysicist on faculty at Louisiana State University.

In her previous post as a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University, she was the lead author of the 2015 paper, "Where's the Flux?," which investigates the unusual light curve of a star (KIC 8462852) that has since come to be known as Tabby's Star (or Boyajin's Star), making the Atlanta native the first woman to have a star named after her.

Ebony Jade Hilton, Class of 2004 (1982-present)

Hilton earned three bachelor's degrees — in biochemistry, molecular biology and inorganic chemistry — before going on to earn a medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 2008.



PROVIDED

Chris Singleton (left) chats with N.Y. Yankees outfielder and former C of C star Brett Gardner in 2019.

She made history in 2013, when she became the first Black female anesthesiologist at MUSC.

Starting when she was just 8, Hilton knew she wanted to be a doctor. In addition to her position as an associate professor of anesthesiol-

ogy at the University of Virginia, Hilton is also co-founder of GoodStock Consulting, a health care consulting group; a children's book author; a public speaker; and community activist.

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An advertisement for VaccinateSC.com. On the left, a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a light blue surgical face mask and a maroon top, looks directly at the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting. On the right, a dark blue background features the text "Learn about the vaccine at" in a light blue font, followed by "VaccinateSC.com" in a large, bold, white font. Below this, the MUSC Health logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized building icon and the text "MUSC Health" and "Medical University of South Carolina".

R62-1932606-1



FILE/GAVIN MCINTYRE/STAFF

Katie Stagliano picks peppers from a community garden at Crossroads Community Church in Summerville in 2020. In 2008, she founded Katie's Krops, a nonprofit with the mission to establish vegetable gardens with the harvests donated to help feed people in need.

GRADS, from Page 21

**Brett Gardner,
Class of 2005 (1983-present)**

Gardner played baseball for the college for three years. In his senior year, he batted .447, tied for the most hits in college baseball with 122, established a Cougars record with 85 runs scored and led the Southern Conference with 38 stolen bases.

Gardner made his Major League Baseball debut with the New York Yankees in 2008 and was part of the Yankees' 2009 World Series championship team. In 2015 Gardner, or "Gardy" as fans call him, was named an All-Star. In 2016, he won the Gold Glove Award. In 2019, he hit his 100th career home run. He also

hit .251 with a career-high of 28 home runs and 74 RBIs. He was re-signed this season with at least one option for next season and is the longest-serving member of the team.

**Katie Stagliano,
Class of 2020 (1999-present)**

Stagliano earned a degree in communication last year with a minor in leadership, change and social responsibility.

In 2008, Stagliano founded Katie's Krops, a nonprofit with the mission to establish vegetable gardens of all sizes with the harvests donated to help feed people in need, as well as to assist and inspire other young people to do the same.

She is the youngest recipient of the Clinton Global Citizen Award for Leadership in Civil

Society, presented to her by Matt Damon in 2012. She is also a Global Teen Leader for Three Dot Dash, a Hasbro Community Action Hero, a Build-A-Bear Huggable Hero, was named a top-10 youth volunteer of 2014 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and completed a three-year term as a member of the Youth Advisory Board for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Katie's Krops has won support from organizations like Feeding Better Futures General Mills Scholars Program grand prize and Jersey Mike's Sub Above Grant program. Today, Katie's Krops has 100 gardens growing across the country and has donated thousands of pounds of fresh produce to people in need.



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COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON: SPORTS

You'll recognize these standouts

One the 'heart and soul' of baseball's Yankees, the other a legendary basketball coach

BY ANDREW MILLER
apmiller@postandcourier.com

Brett Gardner didn't receive a single college scholarship offer during his senior year at Holly Hill Academy.

The first time the future New York Yankees outfielder tried to walk on to the baseball team at College of Charleston, the Cougars coaching staff said thanks, but no thanks.

"We were geniuses as a coaching staff," former College of Charleston baseball coach John Pawlowski said. "You look back at what happened with Brett when he first tried out and you have to kind of have to shake your head and laugh. We eventually got it right."

Pawlowski was in his third season as the Cougars head coach and had done his best to turn over the roster to upgrade the talent. He didn't have much time for a walk-on outfielder with an "unorthodox swing."

Gardner, however, wasn't going to be denied. A few days later, Cougars baseball assistant coach Scott Foxhall got a letter from Gardner's father — Jerry Gardner, who had played in the Philadelphia Phillies minor league organization — asking Foxhall to give his son another look.

"Brett always had that one great tool — his speed," Foxhall said. "We figured we'd bring him back for a couple of scrimmages. We needed an extra body out there to even out the teams, and use whatever cliché you want, but as they say, the rest is history."

It wasn't like Gardner was an overnight success, either. He played in about half the games as a freshman, batting .244 for the season, and finally earned a starting role the following year.

"The thing about Brett was that he never took a play off," Foxhall said. "Every rep, every at bat, every time he stepped onto the field, he was playing as hard as he could. He



FILE/AP

The Yankees' Brett Gardner homers during the American League wild-card playoff game last year against Minnesota.

gave you everything he had."

Over his final two seasons, he hit better than .400 and drove in 99 runs and finished his career as the school's all-time leader in runs scored (214) and stolen bases (96), records that still stand to this day. As a senior with little leverage in the Major League Draft, Gardner was taken in the third round by the New York Yankees in 2005 with the 109th overall pick.

He spent three years in the minor leagues before making his Major League debut in 2008.

Over the course of his 13-year career with the Yankees, Gardner, 37, has played in 1,548 games. Only 17 Yankees have appeared in pinstripes more times. His 270 stolen bases

are third in club history behind only two guys named Derek Jeter (358) and Rickey Henderson (326). That's more than Mickey Mantle.

His 69 triples, No. 12 on the Yankees' career list, is more than Jeter.

After hitting a career-high 28 homers in 2019, Gardner hit just .223 with five home runs in a pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

"Gardy is the heart and soul of this team," said Tyler Wade, who has played four positions in four seasons with New York. "He's been like my second father. He took me under his wing when I first came to big-league spring training

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and when I first came to the big leagues. He's one of my favorite teammates ever. He understands everybody. He leads by example. He's a model teammate."

John Kresse

Long before College of Charleston transitioned from NAIA to the NCAA, before the Cougars began to earn a national reputation as giant killers and before the first architectural plans for TD Arena were ever put on paper, there was head coach John Kresse.

When Kresse arrived on the downtown Charleston campus in 1979, College of Charleston's basketball program was searching for an identity.

They found one in the former scrappy St. John's University guard.

Over 23 seasons — from 1979 to 2002 — Kresse compiled a 560-142 record with the Cougars. Kresse's career winning percentage (.797) is sixth-highest among NCAA Division I coaches behind the likes of Sam Burton, Claire Bee, Adolph Rupp, Mark Few and John Wooden. Kresse finished his career with a better winning percentage than legendary coaches Roy Williams, Al McGuire and Jerry Tarkanian — all NCAA Tournament champions.

"To be sandwiched between iconic coaches like John Wooden and Roy Williams is very special, because those are two coaches that I have admired over the years," Kresse said.

A native of New York City and former assistant coach of the New York Nets and St. John's University, Kresse built the College into an NAIA powerhouse

in the 1980s, highlighted by a national championship in 1983.

Bigger programs with household names came calling as the wins began to pile up for Kresse. He actually accepted the head coaching position at Davidson. The next day, he changed his mind and headed back to the Lowcountry.

"I had the opportunity to go to Dayton, St. John's, Davidson and Tennessee, but I knew that Charleston was the place for me from Day One," Kresse said. "To see the progression of the program over the past 30 years has been wonderful to witness. I've enjoyed each and every minute of working and being a part of College of Charleston basketball."

After the Cougars transitioned to NCAA Division I, Kresse's teams reached four NCAA Tournaments and two NITs from 1994-99.

During his time with Charleston, the Cougars recorded wins against a slew of Top-25 opponents, including Georgia Tech, North Carolina, Maryland and Stanford. The program also achieved its highest-ever national ranking (16th) in the Associated Press poll in 1997 and 1999.

Five years later, the school built the \$50 million, 5,000-seat TD Arena, whose floor bears his name.

"When you think about College of Charleston basketball, the first name that should come to everyone's mind is John Kresse," said former College of Charleston star Anthony Johnson. "The lessons I learned from coach Kresse on and off the court still resonate with me today."

Reach **Andrew Miller** at 843-937-5599.



College of Charleston head coach John Kresse tries to calm his team in the first half against North Carolina at the Charlotte Coliseum in 2001.

FILE/AP

A celebratory graphic for the College of Charleston's 250th anniversary. The background is dark blue with white stars and fireworks. At the top, it says "The College of Charleston Where it ALL Matters". Below this are three overlapping circles: a red one with a graduation cap and the word "EDUCATION", a blue one with a bar chart and the word "BUSINESS", and a green one with a lightbulb and the word "INNOVATION". In the center is the College of Charleston seal. At the bottom, it says "Happy 250th Birthday!" in a cursive font, followed by "Colbert Busch LLC" in a bold sans-serif font. The number "R36-1931846-1" is in the bottom right corner.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON: 250 YEARS



Students graduate from the College of Charleston on May 29, 1956.



A dorm room in 1973.

FILE/STAFF





COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

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For more information contact Robie Scott at 843-937-5766, rscott@postandcourier.com

Most challenging year ever

Office that tracks tourism shared in pandemic's brutal blow to local industry



FILE/GAVIN MCINTYRE/STAFF

The Hotel Bennett's lights illuminate the sidewalk along King Street on March 25.

BY EMILY WILLIAMS
ewilliams@postandcourier.com

Daniel Guttentag had grown pretty used to delivering good news.

Since the fall of 2017, he's been director at the College of Charleston's Office of Tour-

ism Analysis, which works closely with the hotels, restaurants, attractions, events and tour operators that comprise the local visitor sector.

Guttentag's office tracks metrics for visitation and travel spending, analyzes the economic impact of blockbuster events like

Charleston Wine + Food festival and monitors the performance and growth of Charleston County's lodging inventory.

His office is one modern way the College of Charleston has helped shape and shepherd the

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Lowcountry's economy over the past two centuries. It illustrates the college's importance and impact within the community.

Explore Charleston, the group that markets the area to visitors, turns to Guttentag's office for those numbers, and the numbers told a clear story.

Take 2020, the college's anniversary year, which was put on pause to a large degree. Tourism was growing year after year in Charleston — growing to the point that the concept of “overtourism” was becoming a hot topic in town. Then COVID-19 hit.

What had been expected to be another record year for tourism turned out to be unlike anything the industry had seen.

Guttentag's office is familiar with measuring how disasters affect travel. But usually, those disasters are hurricanes and flooding, causing losses in millions of dollars, not billions, and putting off travel for days, not months.

This time, there was “no end in sight,” Guttentag said.

“All of a sudden, it's like we're starting from scratch,” he said. “So it was sort of fascinating from a research perspective, and, just in terms of our mission of working with the industry more broadly, I think it was really a special opportunity for us to help out.”

Most of the projects planned for the year were scrapped, and all focus was put on the pandemic.

For Guttentag's annual presentation to the Charleston Area Travel Council, the topic was, “Charleston tourism in the time of COVID-19.”

It was only mid-May then, and the picture of what Charleston tourism looked like in the middle of a pandemic was still fuzzy. Many hotels that closed their doors temporarily were just starting to reopen, and Guttentag recalled talking about ways to make their guests feel safer, like putting up Plexiglass at the front desk, having staff members wear face masks and limiting the capacity in elevators.

While it's not unusual for Guttentag's office to hear from hotel operators and other business owners looking for specific numbers or reports, this past year, local professionals were



PROVIDED

Daniel Guttentag is the director of the College of Charleston's Office of Tourism Analysis.

reaching out for longer conversations.

“They really wanted to chat for 30 or 45 minutes just about ideas and thoughts about what we might be seeing,” he said.

Hoteliers communicated what they were hearing from guests and observing on the ground at their properties, and Guttentag's office took a wider view, comparing Charleston to the rest of the state and country, tracking guidance from health experts and seeing what Americans were saying in national surveys about travel sentiment.

“We have the benefit of having more time to spend looking at research that the general manager of a hotel isn't going to have the time to spend doing because he or she has a million other responsibilities keeping their hotel up and running,” Guttentag said.

Lodging reports that research coordinator Melinda Patience compiles monthly show just how much the hotel sector was impacted by the pandemic in 2020. Average occupancy was down almost 40 percent from the prior year, and the average daily rate for a room dropped

by about a fifth.

While it was obvious just by walking through the most popular tourist spots in downtown Charleston that travelers were in short supply last year, the regular reports, virtual talks and check-ins from the Office of Tourism Analysis gave a clearer picture of just how much of a setback for the industry COVID-19 was.

Guttentag and Patience are working on a full assessment of 2020, which will show how much the sector's economic impact shrank during the health crisis.

That and other reports are also setting a starting point for the travel industry's recovery. Last summer was a “roller coaster,” Guttentag said, because travel metrics fluctuated along with COVID-19 case numbers. Now that vaccinations are being administered, though, he predicted that upticks for tourism now are more likely to be sustained.

Bookings are already climbing, and Guttentag said he doesn't “see them going back down again,” especially since the vaccine rollout aligned with the start of the traditional busy season in Charleston.

But, Guttentag said, it's hard to say anything with certainty these days.

Pre-COVID, Charleston's tourism trends were pretty predictable.

Then, 2020 was “a completely new year and a completely new time.” In many ways, 2021 is still uncharted territory, too.

“It's just sort of hard to imagine getting back to normal life again,” he said.

Guttentag does feel optimistic about Charleston's chances at a strong showing, especially compared to some other destinations. The area's beaches satisfy a pandemic-fueled desire from travelers for outdoor recreation, and it's also an asset that the Holy City's “bread and butter” is leisure travel and not slower-to-recover group business and conferences.

That, plus travelers' cabin fever, could be the recipe for a successful summer.

Charleston's recovery is “not quite there yet,” Guttentag said, but good news could be coming again soon.

Reach **Emily Williams** at 843-607-0894. Follow her on Twitter @emilye_williams.



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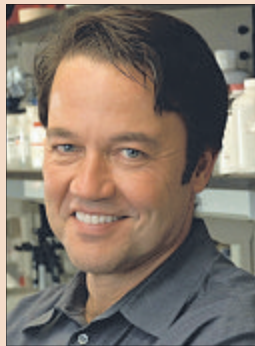


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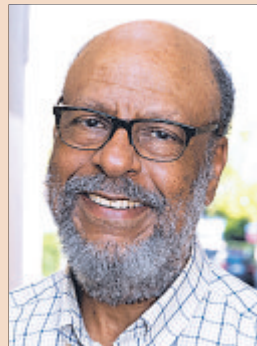
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